



COASTAL AMERICA UPDATE

Volume 10 • Number 2 • SUMMER 2000

COASTAL AMERICA PRINCIPALS MEETINGS

On May 9th, the Coastal America Principals met at the Department of Interior. The nomination of The Seattle Aquarium as the 12th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center was approved by the Principals, in recognition of the role the Aquarium can serve for education and outreach on salmon and upper watershed issues in the Northwest. The Principals selected the following teams as recipients of the 2000 Partnership Awards: Little Falls Dam Fishway, MD; Rains Mill Dam, NC; Breton Island, GA; Maine Coastal Wetland Restoration; Massachusetts Wetland Restoration; Los Osos/Morro Bay Coastal Dunes, CA; and the Fort McHenry Restoration, MD. In addition, Special Recognition Awards will be presented to The Gillette Company for their leadership in developing the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) and to the Marine Corps Wing Support Squadron 271 at Cherry Point, North Carolina for their role in removing the Rains Mill Dam.



Principals meeting; Washington, D.C.

Dr. A. Wallace Hayes, John MacKenzie and Steve Brayton from The Gillette Company, and Mark Whitenton and Keith McCoy from the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) gave presentations on the CWRP. These talks addressed the voluntary, non-regulatory and confidential features of financial management of the funds, and the benefits to the companies for participating, such as enhanced working relationships, and improved compliance and corporate image. The Principals agreed to work with their respective agencies to create a better understanding of the CWRP.

NATIONAL CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP KICK-OFF

A press conference was held on May 25th in Washington, DC to announce the formation of the national Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP), a voluntary public-private partnership to restore America's wetlands. Partners include private industry, federal and state agencies, non-profit groups and academia. CWRP is entirely voluntary and is non-regulatory in function.

The groundbreaking for the first use of CWRP funds to support restoration of a Coastal America project took place at Sagamore Marsh, on the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne, Massachusetts, on April 10th. The Army Corps of Engineers, with the collective expertise and resources of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA, assisted the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in restoring the 50-acre wetland. To date, 17 companies have joined the Massachusetts program, contributing over \$1 million. A state partnership event was held for the Connecticut CWRP, chaired by Duracell and Northeast Utilities, on June 8th in Danbury, CT. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) will be promoting the CWRP nationally in an effort to expand the accomplishments made in the northeast. NAM represents 14,000 member-corporations, including small and medium-sized companies. NAM is the national sponsor of the CWRP and Gillette is the national corporate chair. Two other companies, Duke Energy and The Foxboro Company, are also on the national council.



CWRP Press Conference; Washington, D.C.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEM LEARNING CENTER UPDATE

SEATTLE AQUARIUM DESIGNATION AS 12th CELC

On June 26th, The Seattle Aquarium was designated as the 12th Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) in the nation. Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and Chair of the Coastal America Principals Group served as the Awarding Official and Master of Ceremonies. Congratulatory remarks were given by Paul Schell, Mayor of Seattle and Nancy McKay, Chair of the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team. Gilbert KingGeorge of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe performed a blessing of The Seattle Aquarium as a CELC. Thirteen federal agencies presented gifts to The Aquarium, representing their commitment to work in partnership to educate and involve the public in stewardship of coastal and marine resources. Commitments included: \$40,000 from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to enhance The Aquarium's sea otter exhibit, access to the Environmental Protection Agency's GIS database and the Corps' hydrosurvey vessel "Shoal Hunter," linkages to the Naval Undersea Museum, and provision of a National Park Service education specialist to work with The Aquarium. Each of the federal agencies will provide technical expertise and available resources to support The Aquarium's education and outreach programs.



Seattle Aquarium designation ceremony

New England Aquarium

The New England Aquarium has been working with the Coastal America Foundation to prepare a proposal on behalf of the national CELC network to develop an Environmental Teachers Sabbatical (ETS) program. The proposal is based on a successful ETS program developed by the New England Aquarium and initially funded by the EPA in 1998. The New England Aquarium is also planning to host a regional learning center workshop in September 2000 for the NE and MA learning centers and RITs. The New England Aquarium, in partnership with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, will host a pilot Student Ocean Conference in December 2000.

New York Aquarium

Over 2,900 students gathered at the New York Aquarium on May 12th to meet and network with scientists and policy makers from all areas of coastal and environmental sciences at the Aquarium's "Coastal America Career Day." Students visiting the Aquarium attended presentations and visited tables staffed by representatives from the National Park Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, USFWS, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, NY DCNR, Villanova University, City of New York Parks and Recreation, and the NY City Urban Park Rangers. The Aquarium staff provided demonstrations in water quality testing, exhibit fabrication, and animal training. The goal was to increase student awareness of coastal resource protection and management career opportunities.



NY Aquarium Career Day

National Aquarium in Baltimore

A dedication ceremony was held on April 27th for the National Aquarium's field station at a reclaimed wetland in the Fort McHenry National Park. The field station involves working with several federal and state agencies and private groups on a number of projects, including a training program in cooperation with Morgan State University. It was also announced at this ceremony that Glenn Page, the Aquarium's Conservation Director, was named an Environmental Hero by NOAA. On June 2nd and 3rd, the Aquarium lead the restoration of a four-acre salt marsh at Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The Aquarium involved community volunteers in the planting of grasses that will insure added site stability, reduce the potential for erosion, and provide habitat for wildlife. Long-term maintenance and monitoring will be performed by the Aquarium Conservation Team, a volunteer corps dedicated to restoration of estuarine habitats in the Chesapeake Bay. Partnering in this endeavor are the USFWS, NMFS, Chester Testers, Friends of Eastern Neck, LaMotte Co., and Chester Watershed Association. Financial support for this project has been made possible through grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, EPA's 5-Star Program, and NOAA's Restoration Center.

Florida Aquarium

The Florida Aquarium is working in partnership with the Tampa Port Authority to restore, enhance and provide a mechanism for ongoing studies of restoration processes of a small man-made island located in Hillsborough Bay. This will be accomplished through removal of exotics, and the creation and installation of micro-habitats that are representative of the types that make up the Bay, including the inner tidal zone, upland scrub, mangrove forest and salt marsh. The site will be designed specifically for educating the public about the habitats that comprise Hillsborough Bay. Interpretive signage, trails and boardwalks will be designed for this purpose. The Naval Reserve Center will assist with in-kind services and equipment for site work, and additional support from federal agency partners is being sought.

Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium has developed a proposal in partnership with the US FWS and the Gladys Porter Zoo to provide conservation information to teachers in both the United States and Mexico concerning five species of sea turtles found in the Gulf of Mexico, including the endangered Kemp's Ridley turtle. The proposal includes a series of teacher training workshops to be conducted in border towns of Texas and Tamaulipas, Mexico. These workshops will provide background information on sea turtle biology, as well as educational materials and curriculum that can be used in classrooms and communities to increase sea turtle awareness and conservation. Additional support from federal agency partners is being sought.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

The HMSC is working with Federal Partners to develop a demonstration wetland in front of the visitor center. The next step is to have the US Army Corp of Engineers conduct a feasibility study. In collaboration with the NOAA VENTS program, the HMSC Project NEMO involves a research cruise to the active volcano on the Juan De Fuca Plate just 200 miles off the coast of Oregon. An educator on board the vessel posts reports of the work at sea and another educator at the HMSC gives presentations about the cruise, the previous day's work, and discoveries. It is near real time and is very well received by the public. Visit the website for current information:

<http://newport.pmel.noaa.gov/nemo/expedition.html>

Seattle Aquarium

The Seattle Aquarium and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary will be the first to pilot a Student Ocean Conference funded by the National Geographic Society. The Seattle Aquarium Student Ocean Conference, scheduled for early November, will be designed to involve several federal agencies by developing role-playing scenarios to teach the students about each agency's responsibilities and authorities for protecting coastal and ocean resources. Agencies may also participate in an environmental career fair to be held in conjunction with the Student Conference. Bill Arntz, former Board of Park Commissioners Chair, has been named to serve as Acting Director of the Seattle Aquarium while the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation conducts a search for a new permanent director.

Waikiki Aquarium

The Waikiki Aquarium's summer Community Enrichment Program includes three week-long courses conducted at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. One course, called "Family Camp at Midway," is designed for families, and multiple generations are encouraged to participate. This is the first opportunity for families to attend a specially designed natural history class at Midway. Two other courses are offered through the University of Hawaii-Hilo for credit; they include a class on shark biology, ecology, and research, and a class for teachers and education majors on teaching marine science. The Aquarium's partnership with the US FWS via Coastal America, and their pivotal affiliations with colleagues at the UH-Hilo and Midway Phoenix, are crucial in facilitating these educational programs.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeast

The NERIT has approved Bob Wengrzynek as the new Co-Chairman of the Team. The CT DEP and the Long Island Sound Study have identified several hundred habitat restoration opportunities that are being evaluated for military training exercises and for CWRP support. Several USACE General Investigations are underway to implement the projects in Rhode Island and a kick-off of the RI CWRP is planned for the fall. The Sagamore Marsh restoration project in Massachusetts is underway and groundbreaking for other sites in the State are planned. In New Hampshire, numerous coastal salt marsh restorations have been completed with NRCS/USFWS expertise, and state fisheries scientists have identified a series of relict dam removals to improve their regional fisheries. In Maine, the NRCS, USFWS, and USACE have begun a major restoration project in Scarborough Marsh. This summer, the US Air Force Reserve command has brought together reserve individuals from around the nation to remove the East Machias Dam and Power Plant, allowing for the migration of Atlantic Salmon up the East Machias River. Other partners will continue the effort at East Machias, working to complete landscaping on the river banks. Additionally, Maine DOT and USACE (Section 22 funds) will conduct a state-wide salt marsh restoration inventory for tidal constrictions. The NERIT will meet in the fall of 2000 at the New England Aquarium in association with the regional Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers workshop. Additionally, the Regional Principals will meet to review the NERIT progress and provide direction to the staff.

Mid-Atlantic

The MARIT met on April 28th in Annapolis, MD, to discuss the status and progress of restoration projects, revision of the team strategy and coordination with the Mid-Atlantic Federal Partner for the Environment. Bess Gillelan announced that she would be stepping down as Co-Chair to take a position with the American Heritage Rivers program office. On May 17th, the Cooper River Fishway restoration project in Camden County, New Jersey was dedicated. The project provided fish passage facilities at Wallworth Lake Dam and Evans Pond Dam, which are located in a residential park in Haddonfield, NJ. The fishways provide migratory fish access to approximately four miles of river and when combined with other existing fishways, open a total of eight miles from the confluence of the Delaware River. The fishways were installed by a partnership comprised of the USACE, the FWS, the

Delaware Estuary Program, the NMFS Fish American Foundation grant initiative, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and Camden County (the owner of the dams). The next MARIT meeting is scheduled for October at the New York Aquarium.

Southeast

On April 5th, the Southeast RIT Chair met with the South Carolina Aquarium staff and was given a walk-through of the near complete aquarium facility, which opened for business on May 19th, 2000. The Aquarium is expected to submit a request for designation as a CELC. The SERIT met on June 1st in Atlanta. Primary agenda items were (1) developing a "business plan" for working with designated CELCs, (2) initiating the Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership in the southeast, and (3) updating the SERIT Regional Action Strategy. On June 22nd, Colonel George Schlossnagle of the Coastal America Office and Mr. Dennis Barnett, Chair of the SERIT, spoke at the Annual Region IV EPA/DOD/State Environmental Conference. Mr. Barnett presented a general overview of the Coastal America Partnership and the SERIT, while Colonel Schlossnagle discussed the role of the military in Coastal America with particular focus on Innovative Readiness Training (IRT).

Gulf of Mexico

On May 13th, the Gulf of Mexico Program's Management Committee (GMP MC) assumed the role and responsibilities of the Coastal America Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team. Also at this time a military subcommittee was created to review projects for possible military involvement under IRT. Mr. Bruce Moulton, Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission and Mr. Jerry Clifford, EPA-Dallas are the GMP MC co-chairs. Bryon Griffith and Bob Bosenberg will serve as day-to-day administrators of the business process. The GMP's annual work plan calls for championing five CA projects each year. The GMP MC has forwarded to the Coastal America office for consideration their nomination of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to be designated as a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center. GMP staff are working with the Texas State Aquarium and Florida Aquarium to develop project proposals for funding through the GMP annual work plan process. The GMP is pursuing IRT involvement in implementing a project to improve tidal exchange and enhance seagrass growth in DeSoto Park in Pinellas County, Florida. The project involves excavation of two earthen causeways and construction of steel span bridges. To keep pace with what is happening, please check the web address for the GMP: www.gmpo.gov

Northwest

The NWRIT met on June 8th at the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) in Newport, OR primarily to discuss creation of a wetlands in front of the center and to officially form a subgroup to specifically work with the HMSC on education and outreach. Jon Luke, Visitor Center Manager for the HMSC, will serve as Chair for the subgroup. Because funds are not available for any new starts under the 1135 program, the Corps may do the feasibility study for the wetlands project as a "Support for Others" effort, requiring a 50/50 cost share. The HMSC Subgroup will also be a resource for identifying Oregon coastal restoration projects. This group of Coastal America partners will meet again in early August to discuss the project in more detail. The NWRIT also met on July 13th at the Corps offices in Portland, OR to review the team strategy and organizational structure, and to develop a list of project opportunities for CWRP funding. A proposal for a Student Ocean Conference, to be held at the Seattle Aquarium in conjunction with the Olympic Coast NMS and funded by the National Geographic Society, was presented to the team for endorsement.

Alaska

The Alaska Regional Team met on May 8th at the Army Corps of Engineers. Several opportunities for partnering to restore coastal ecosystems were discussed, including the USFWS Partners for Wildlife, the NRCS WHIP, the Corps Sections 1135 and 208 and the NMFS Community Based Restoration programs. The team also discussed adoption of an Aquatic Habitat and Management Restoration Resolution and development of the Regional Strategy. The Alaska SeaLife Center, in cooperation with the AKRIT, will be hosting the Northwest Regional CELC Conference this fall.

Pacific Islands

The PIRIT met at the Waikiki Aquarium on May 31st to review potential Coastal America projects and to discuss 3 potential projects for the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program. John Emmerson, PIRIT Co-chair, and Colonel Schlossnagle, Military Liaison for Coastal America, met with commanders of US Army Pacific, Hawaii National Guard, 9th Reserve Support Command, and J44 at PACOM (CINCPAC) to discuss three possible projects for IRT involvement. The USFWS has formed a wetlands restoration team of representatives from federal, state and county agencies and nongovernmental organizations for the island of Oahu. A floating hydraulic shovel is being purchased and the team is responsible for maintaining wetlands and removing nonindigenous mangroves where appropriate on Oahu. This program provides an excellent opportunity for Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership involvement. Representatives of local communities are being

invited to attend the PIRIT meeting on July 26th to request endorsement of their projects as "PIRIT Coastal America Projects." As a result of this meeting, the team created a military subcommittee to report to the Team Leader who will use this group to identify military units that may be interested in proposed Coastal America projects.

REGIONAL CHAIRS

NORTHEAST	Bill Hubbard	978 318-8552
MID-ATLANTIC	John Wright	718 491-8715
SOUTHEAST	Dennis Barnett	404 562-5225
GULF OF MEXICO	Robert Bosenberg Bryon Griffith	504 862-2522 228 688-1172
SOUTHWEST	Peter Seligman	619 553-5403
PACIFIC ISLANDS	John Naughton John Emmerson	808 973-2935 808 438-6968
NORTHWEST	Jim Reese	503 808-3862
ALASKA	Jeanne Hanson Guy McConnell	907 271-3029 907 753-2614
GREAT LAKES	Gene Fleming	312 353-6320

UPCOMING EVENTS - 2000

Partnership Awards Ceremonies

9/14 Kenai River Protection & Education Team, AK
9/19 Bretton Island Restoration Team, LA
10/18 Rains Mill Dam Removal Team, NC
11/29-30 Massachusetts CWRP, MA

Workshops/Conferences

9/20-21 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Center Workshop/NERIT meeting, NE Aquarium
10/00 Northwest and Alaska Regional Learning Center Workshop, Alaska SeaLife Center
10/00 MARIT meeting, NY Aquarium
11/7 Student Ocean Conference, The Seattle Aquarium
12/1 Student Ocean Conference
The New England Aquarium

COASTAL AMERICA ANNUAL RETREAT

The Coastal America 2000 Retreat was held June 27th - 30th in Annapolis, MD. The first day of the Retreat provided an overview of new initiatives including military involvement and Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers activities, then focused on the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership and expanding the program nationally. John McKenzie of The Gillette Company was recognized with a CWRP Leadership Award for his efforts to establish the MA CWRP and to expand it to the nation. The second day highlighted recent activities at the Alaska SeaLife Center, National Aquarium in Baltimore, Mystic Aquarium, and Hatfield Marine Science Center, and the NWRIT and SERIT Chairs presented their regional strategies for increasing support to the learning centers. Retreat participants went to the Fort McHenry wetlands demonstration site to learn about the NAIB's efforts to involve the community in maintaining and monitoring the site. Participants also went to the National Aquarium to see the dolphin show which effectively provides the audience with important information on protecting and conserving marine habitats. This day closed with Glenn Page receiving a CELC Leadership Award for his efforts to partner with the federal agencies and the community

to restore coastal habitats. The final day of the retreat involved presentations by each of the Regional Chairs on their team strategies, emphasizing restoration priorities, expansion of the CWRP, and support for learning centers. Gene Conti, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Transportation and Diana Josephson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Navy, provided guidance on how to strengthen the Coastal America Partnership. Coastal America National Leadership Awards were presented to Bill Hubbard and Patmarie Nedelka and the Regional Leadership Award was presented to Bryon Griffith and Bob Bosenberg, Co-Chairs of the Gulf of Mexico Regional Implementation Team for their efforts to integrate the GMRIT into the Gulf of Mexico Program structure.

SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The STAC met on April 5th at the Coastal Services Center in Charleston, SC. The STAC agreed to work with Coastal America to investigate the benefits of hosting a regional Nutria workshop. It was also determined that the STAC should follow developments with aquaculture legislation and planning efforts before deciding what role the STAC should have in implementation. The remainder of the STAC meeting was devoted to brainstorming useful ways for STAC to work with RITs.

Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Departments of Agriculture, Air Force, Army, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Navy, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and The Executive Office of the President.



COASTAL AMERICA

300 7th Street, SW
REPORTERS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

COASTAL AMERICA OFFICE

Virginia K. Tippie
Director

Art Bryant
Watershed Coordinator

Col. George W. Schlossnagle
Military Liaison

Patmarie S. Nedelka
Policy Coordinator

Lisa Hammond
Education/Outreach Coordinator

Hollis Ann Church
Editor

Telephone: 202 401-9928 • Fax: 202 401-9821
<http://www.coastalamerica.gov>